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ABSTRACT

This program offers fourteen resolutions with corresponding strategies for improving education for Asian and Pacific Americans. These strategies are specifically directed to the Asian/Pacific American Concerns Staff and other Asian/Pacific American organizations. Issues addressed include: (1) insufficient State and Federal funding for bilingual and multicultural education; (2) the necessity for flexibility in Federal policy; (3) equal access by Asian/Pacific Americans to government decision making; (4) curriculum bias in textbooks, resource materials, and teacher training; (5) higher education support services and occupational counseling; and (6) better representation of Asian/Pacific Americans among educational administrators. The resolutions also call for more research related to Asian/Pacific American concerns, the prohibition of educational voucher plans, and the legitimization of Asian/Pacific American studies. (APM)

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Asian/Pacific American Education Agenda for the 1980's

Asian/Pacific American Concerns Staff
and
The National Asian/Pacific American Education Alliance

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION & WELFARE
NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION

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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
Shirley M. Hufstedler, *Secretary*

FOREWORD

The Asian/Pacific American Education Agenda for the 1980's was initiated by the Asian/Pacific American Concerns Staff (APACS) on April 25, 1979, at the National Asian and Pacific American Conference in San Francisco. At that time representatives from 16 Asian/Pacific American (APA) national and local organizations caucused to identify, discuss, and develop resolutions to major education problems of concern to APAs. (See list of APA organizations in appendix.) Subsequently, these organizations collectively formed the National Asian/Pacific American Education Alliance in order to establish a cooperative support body for following through on the APA Education Agenda. A task force was established to formulate strategies for coordinating activities of APA organizations to address their educational priorities.

The key to progress for APAs depends on their ability to communicate and convince decision makers to take action on the educational problems they face. To do this they must understand that decision makers usually are responsive to problems that affect large numbers of people in terms of impact and severity. For these reasons APAs are often bypassed when it comes to appointments, grant funds, and input into the local to national educational systems.

If APAs are to get the attention and the support of decision makers, they must work together among themselves as well as with other persons and groups who will help them. This problem of working together has plagued APAs historically because they have not yet reached a common ground of communication, trust, and cooperation at the national level.

It is hoped that the APA Education Agenda for the 1980's can provide a focal point for fostering the fundamentals of communication, trust, and cooperation. In looking at the APA Education Agenda, you will find 14 resolutions with corresponding strategies for improving education for APAs. The strategies are specifically recommended activities for APA organizations and APACS to accomplish the 1980's Agenda. As you may have noticed, there is no time line for implementation of these strategies. The National Asian/Pacific American Education Alliance will be responsible for notifying participating organizations of events that might further the implementation of such activities.

Also, since these are only recommended activities, organizations should feel free to take other actions they find appropriate; however, it is recommended that the Asian/Pacific American Alliance be notified.

APACS and the APA Education Alliance will work closely to coordinate organizational activities.

Any organization interested in participating in the actions proposed by the Asian/Pacific American Education Agenda for the 1980's should contact:

Asian/Pacific American Concerns Staff
U.S. Department of Education
400 Maryland Avenue, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20202
(202) 472-3730

OR

The National Asian/Pacific American
Education Alliance
6905 ~~6509~~ Brisbane Street
Springfield, VA. 22152

RESOLUTION 1

FEDERAL/STATE FUNDING

Whereas Asian and Pacific Americans (APAs) are often stereotyped as a "model" minority group and hence are not receiving sufficient or a fair share of Federal funds to meet their needs; and

Whereas APAs find that present and projected educational programs need to be expanded to bring about equal opportunity in the United States of America; and

Whereas APAs are made up of different ethnic and cultural groups and each has its distinct and unique identity; and

Whereas there is no flexibility in the use of Federal funds to appropriately address the differences of the outlying territories and other APA educational needs; and

Whereas the present grant funding process does not involve APA personnel to advise, counsel, and provide technical assistance; and

Whereas the utilization of Federal and State funds does not adequately involve APA teacher, parent and community input,

Therefore, be it resolved that the National Asian and Pacific American Education Alliance urge the appropriate Federal, State and local educational agencies to take positive action in achieving from APAs broad representation and input in all aspects of funding (advisory councils, readers, employed personnel); and

Be it further resolved that the U.S. Department of Education conduct an assessment of the educational services to APAs to identify areas of blatant underservice, and to rectify these areas of concern.

APA Organizations Activities

APA organizations will recommend and submit resumes of qualified candidates for advisory councils, proposal readers, and employment to APACS.

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APA organizations will inquire about fund information and request technical assistance for APAs from educational agencies at the Federal, State, and local levels.

APACS Activities

APACS will work with related offices within the Department of Education to conduct an assessment of the educational services to APAs and to identify areas of underservice.

APACS & APA Organizations Activities

APACS and APA organizations must advocate an increase of funds and appropriate program services for APAs at all levels.

RESOLUTION 2

BILINGUAL EDUCATION

Whereas the United States of America has asserted the need for bilingual education by legislation and appropriation; and

Whereas the U.S. Department of Education has been charged with carrying out the goals and objectives of bilingual education; and

Whereas the APA participation in policy and implementation in bilingual education has been imponderably underrepresented; and

Whereas funding, programming, materials, and research relating to bilingual education for APAs are inadequate; and

Whereas the APA communities have been willing to actively participate in policy making decisions and in implementing bilingual education programs,

Therefore, be it resolved that the U.S. Department of Education place more APAs in all levels of decision-making positions, on advisory councils, and on the staff of the Office of Bilingual Education; and

Be it further resolved that there be increased funding for bilingual education training, research, and materials for APAs; and

Be it further resolved that the U.S. Department of Education mandate the funding of all programs which are serving areas with APA population and that the said Department consult the various communities to give adequate services to APAs.

APA Organizations Activities

APA organizations will raise issues on bilingual education to the Office of Bilingual Education and Minority Language Affairs and APACS.

APA organizations will recommend qualified candidates for advisory councils and employment to OBEMLA.

APA organizations will conduct workshops for parents and community leaders on issues of bilingual education.

APACS Activities

APACS will meet with OBEMLA to advocate fair APA representation on their advisory council and staff.

APACS will submit resumes of qualified candidates for advisory councils, proposal review panels, and staff of the OBEMLA.

APACS will disseminate information and provide technical assistance concerning bilingual education to APA organizations and agencies.

APACS & APA Organizations Activities

APACS and APA organizations will sponsor conferences and workshops on parental and community involvement for leaders in APA communities.

APACS and APA organizations will review regulations of Federal funded education programs to insure equal educational opportunity for all.

RESOLUTION 3

MULTI-CULTURAL EDUCATION

Whereas the United States of America is a pluralistic society built on the contributions of numerous cultures; and

Whereas the self-concept of an individual is based on one's perception of one's particular ethnic or racial group and its deemed worth and contributions; and

Whereas the concept of an open and pluralistic society is based on the equality and appreciation of all its racial and cultural groups;

Whereas a major responsibility of the American school is to equip and prepare individuals for effective participation in a society made up of different, yet interdependent races, cultures, and individual life styles; and

Whereas Asian/Pacific American studies, as a relevant and legitimate field of study in the higher education institutions of the United States of America, could, with increased budgetary and administrative support, provide teachers and leaders with a better cultural understanding of Asian/Pacific Americans,

Therefore, be it resolved that the National Asian and Pacific American Education Alliance recognize the need for and actively support the implementation of multi-cultural education at all levels of the educational system.

APACS Activities

APACS will work with advisory councils, educational associations, and coalitions at the national level in support of multicultural education.

APACS & APA Organizations Activities

APACS and APA organizations will sponsor conferences and workshops to facilitate the sharing of resources and methods for implementing and supporting multicultural education.

APACS and APA organizations will support and promote APA Heritage Week activities for increasing understanding of APA contributions and culture.

APACS and APA organizations will advocate more funds for teacher in-service training, material development, and research on multicultural education.

RESOLUTION 4

FEDERAL POLICY

Whereas APAs consist of Burmese, Cambodians, Chinese, Japanese, Koreans, Laotians, Philipinos, Thai, as well as Samoans, Guamians, Hawaiians, and other Pacific Islanders and posses unique cultural and language backgrounds; and

Whereas APAs make up approximately 3 million persons scattered throughout the United States and the Pacific Islands; and

Whereas APAs vary greatly in their educational attainment, as well as their economic and social status,

Therefore, be it resolved that Federal policies be flexible and diverse in order to serve APAs as deemed appropriate by parents, educators, and community leaders of this constituency.

APA Organizations Activities

APA organizations will advocate workshops to promote the active involvement of APAs at State and local levels.

APACS Activities

APACS will sponsor training workshops on parental and community involvement for leaders in APA communities.

APACS & APA Organizations Activities

APACS and APA organizations will network data and resources to keep APA communities informed of the key education issues.

APACS will review Federal program regulations and policies to promote the involvement of APA parents, communities, and organizations.

RESOLUTION 5

A UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Whereas the National Asian and Pacific American Education Alliance, in association with other educational organizations, is concerned about the quality of education in the Nation; and

Whereas the future leaders of this Nation are dependent upon a sound educational foundation; and

Whereas the National Asian and Pacific American Education Alliance finds that education programs are more effectively managed and supported by an independent department or agency, rather than by a division of the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare,

Therefore, be it resolved that the National Asian and Pacific American Education Alliance strongly support the establishment of a Department of Education in this 96th session of Congress.

This objective was met. Several APA organizations throughout the United States worked hard to achieve this objective.

RESOLUTION 6

EQUAL ACCESS

Whereas APAs represent a diverse, though relatively small part of the population in the United States; and

Whereas APAs are often bypassed and ignored in the development of national policies; and

Whereas APAs continue to support this Nation's commitment to equal access to government decision making,

Therefore, be it resolved that the National Asian and Pacific American Education Alliance advocate and require full APA representation on advisory councils, task forces, grant-reading panels; and, furthermore, that it have access to national policy making and national policy-makers.

APA Organizations Activities

APA organizations will nominate and support qualified candidates for appointment to advisory councils, task forces, proposal review panels, etc.

APA organizations will notify APACS about inquiries on APA issues raised with the Department of Education.

APACS Activities

APACS will advocate through memoranda and meetings increased APA representation and input in Federal programs.

APACS will keep APA organizations informed about available positions on advisory councils, committees, etc.

RESOLUTION 7

CURRICULUM

Whereas textbooks, resource materials, teacher-training and the educational environment tend to be biased in favor of the European roots of America; and

Whereas traditional education materials perpetuate negative stereotypes of Asian and Pacific Americans; and

Whereas traditional educational materials contain biased stereotyping of Asian and Pacific American women; and

Whereas little or no effort has been made to produce resources that promote the understanding of APA cultures as an integral part of American society; and

Whereas textbooks, resource materials, and teacher-training have failed to address the contribution of Asian and Pacific Americans to the Unites States of America,

Therefore, be it resolved that the U.S. Department of Education promote and monitor the development of curricula and resource materials that reflect the cultural diversity of the United States of America and accurately portray the history and contributions of the various ethnic and linguistic groups in an effort to eliminate race and sex-role stereotyping which still adversely affects APAs.

APA Organizations Activities

APA organizations will identify stereotype educational materials and share information on such material with APA network.

APA organizations will send letters addressing opposition to negative stereotypes in materials developed at all levels.

APACS Activities

APACS will review Federal regulations for inclusion of statements to terminate the perpetuation of negative stereotypes.

APACS will meet with related program staff of the Department of Education to address means of controlling racial and ethnical stereotypes in materials developed by the Department of Education.

APACS & APA Organizations Activities

APACS and APA organizations will advocate more and better designed bilingual and multicultural education curriculum materials to be developed at State and local levels.

RESOLUTION 8

MULTICULTURAL SPECIAL EDUCATION

Whereas many APA families with handicapped and disabled children suffer from the double jeopardy of a need for extra-ordinary special education services and appropriate bilingual instruction; and

Whereas the attitude and cultural traditions of APA families must be considered in meeting the needs of special education children,

Therefore, be it resolved that the National Advisory Council for Special Education include in its membership an APA with knowledge and expertise in this problem.

APA Organizations Activities

APA organizations will submit names of qualified candidates to advisory councils at all levels.

APACS Activities

APACS will submit names of candidates with expertise in both special education and bilingual education to the national advisory council for areas related to special education.

APACS & APA Organizations Activities

APACS & APA organizations will write memoranda to support the appointments, employment, and issues concerning APAs in special education with culturally sensitive approaches to education, job placement, and family counseling.

RESOLUTION 9

HIGHER EDUCATION SUPPORT SERVICES

Whereas APAs have the right and desire to be productive contributors and full-fledged members of society; and

Whereas higher education institutions provide access to the skills and knowledge for achieving the above; and

Whereas APAs frequently encounter insurmountable barriers in achieving their education goals because of the "model" minority stereotypes that continue to prevent APAs from participating in institutions of higher education; and

Whereas increasing immigration of APAs has changed the profile and needs of APA in higher education; and

Whereas postsecondary institutions and other agencies are consistently oblivious of the changing needs for supportive services by APA students;

Therefore, be it resolved that the higher education institutions recognize these needs in order to develop and expand support-service programs for APAs; and

Be it further resolved that the Higher Education Act of 1965 provide sufficient funding for programs to meet the needs of APAs in institutions of higher education.

APA Organizations Activities

APA organizations will exchange information on problems and issues of concern to APAs in institutions of higher education.

APA organizations will support legislation that focuses on the needs of non-English and limited-English speaking APA students in higher education.

APACS Activities

APACS will advocate equal access to information and services from the Office of Postsecondary Education.

APACS will sponsor conferences and workshops to identify and discuss problems and issues of concern to APAs in postsecondary education.

RESOLUTION 10

OCCUPATIONAL COUNSELING

Whereas APAs continue to be tracked into occupations on the basis of stereotypes held by counselors at the secondary and postsecondary levels; and

Whereas APA women are severely underrepresented in occupational areas related to mathematics and sciences; and

Whereas there exist severe voids in trained APAs in social service positions, as well as disproportionate under representation in occupations such as attorneys, entrepreneurs, managers, and administrators,

Be it resolved that counselors be trained and held accountable for providing appropriate (non-stereotypic) guidance to APAs.

APACS & APA Organizations Activities

APACS and APA organizations will work with community agencies, school officials, and counselors of pre-college career counseling programs to assist APA students in exploring and preparing themselves for a wider range of career options.

RESOLUTION 11

ADMINISTRATIVE LEADERSHIP

Whereas the number of APA administrators in the education system is drastically disproportionate to the number of professionally trained APAs available in the field; and

Whereas the achievement of equity depends on substantive attitudinal changes of administrators and changes in the educational systems; and

Whereas institutions of higher education have not made special efforts to prepare APAs for administrative positions; and

Whereas education administrators have not actively supported or promoted APAs to administrative positions,

Therefore, be it resolved that the U.S. Department of Education, through ongoing and persistent affirmative action, work with APA communities to educate (administrators and boards of education), as well as actively encourage the granting of positions that will assure a strong APA administrative leadership.

APACS Activities

APACS will work closely with APA organizations through ongoing affirmative action to advocate APA men and women for administrative positions at Federal, State, and local levels.

APACS & APA Organizations Activities

APACS in conjunction with APA organizations will support training workshops and employment programs for APA men and women in management and administration.

APACS will work with APA organizations to coordinate and share strategies used for gaining administrative and management positions.

RESOLUTION 12

RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

Whereas educational research related to APAs is practically nonexistent when compared to research related to other minorities in this Nation; and

Whereas there are few APA educational researchers; and

Whereas there is no existing research and development center currently focusing its attention primarily on APA concerns and issues,

Therefore, be it resolved that the U.S. Department of Education create a research and development center which will focus exclusively on APA concerns and issues and identify means of resolving those concerns and issues.

APA Organizations Activities

APA national organizations will contribute data for the development of a position paper on an APA research and development center.

APACS Activities

APACS in conjunction with APA national organizations will develop a position paper in support of APA research and development centers.

APACS will meet with Education Department officials to discuss the establishment of a research and development center addressing APA concerns and issues.

RESOLUTION 13

SUPPORT FOR PUBLIC EDUCATION AND PROHIBITION OF VOUCHER PLANS

Whereas APAs believe and assert that public schools have, as a major goal, the creation of equal educational opportunities for all; and

Whereas APAs are recipients of this free public education; and

Whereas APAs recognize and maintain that there is danger of eroding the basis of America's public school system through the proposed voucher plans,

Therefore, be it resolved that the National Asian and Pacific American Education Alliance urge Federal legislation prohibiting the establishment of such voucher plans.

APA Organizations Activities

APA organizations will support Federal legislation prohibiting the establishment of voucher plans in education.

APACS & APA Organizations Activities

APACS will work with APA organizations to urge Federal legislation prohibiting voucher plans which would endanger the public school system.

RESOLUTION 14

ASIAN AND PACIFIC AMERICAN STUDIES

Whereas Asian and Pacific American studies in the last decade has emerged as a relevant and legitimate field of study in higher education institutions; and

Whereas Asian and Pacific American studies, as a new field of study, urgently needs financial support to meet the present demand for qualified teaching and research personnel; and

Whereas, with increased budgetary and administrative support, Asian and Pacific American studies could provide teachers and leaders with a more clear understanding of Asian and Pacific Americans and their respective cultural backgrounds.

Therefore, be it resolved that the U.S. Department of Education actively support Asian and Pacific American studies in institutions of higher education,

Be it further resolved that the National Asian and Pacific American Education Alliance advocate the passage of legislation explicitly recognizing the legitimate standing and future of Asian and Pacific American studies, and ethnic studies as a whole, in the curriculum of higher education institutions.

APA Organizations Activities

National and local APA organizations will network information on activities in Asian/Pacific American studies.

APA organizations and studies programs will participate in the development of legislation and regulations in support of programs related to APA studies.

APACS Activities

APACS will advocate the improvement of the APA studies program in the Department of Education.

APACS will work with APA studies program and support APA organizations to coordinate activities, initiate changes, and network information.

APPENDIX

The following organizations were present at the 1979 National Asian and Pacific American Conference. They agreed to participate in activities and help carry out the goals of the Asian/Pacific American Education Agenda for the 1980's:

National Organizations

Asian American Assembly for Policy Research

Asian/Pacific American Women's Caucus

Association of Asian American Studies

Federation of Guamanian Associations of America

Japanese American Citizens League

National Association for Asian and Pacific American Education

National Education Association-Asian/Pacific American Caucus

Organization of Chinese Americans

Pacific Asian Coalition

Local Organizations

Asian American Education Association, Chicago

Asian American Education Association, Los Angeles

The Association of Chinese Teachers

Department of Education, American Samoa

Department of Education, Guam

Hawaii Teacher's Association

Filipino Teacher's Association, San Francisco

NATIONAL ASIAN/PACIFIC AMERICAN EDUCATION AGENDA CAUCUS

PREPARATION

Each organization was requested to submit five priority resolutions.

(FIRST DAY) APRIL 25, 1979

9:30 Convene delegates for agenda caucus introductions

9:45 Discuss and review resolutions of national and local APA organizations

10:30 Break into teams to:

a) Rewrite
b) Consolidate
c) Strengthen and recommend preliminary resolutions for National Agenda

11:30 Reconvene caucus - to accept recommended resolutions of teams (20 minute max. discussion time)

12:30 Lunch break

1:30 Accept recommended team resolutions

2:30 Coffee break

2:45 Discuss other issues

3:45 Adjournment

(SECOND DAY) APRIL 26, 1979

Preliminary agenda - to be discussed and reviewed by Special Interest Caucuses - on sign up basis.

(THIRD DAY) APRIL 27, 1979

Morning discussions and reviews by Special Interest Caucuses - on sign up basis.

1:00 PM Reconvene agenda caucus for update on recommended changes (May need to break into teams)

2:00 Finalize National Agenda

2:45 Adjourn - (May conduct press conference if appropriate).

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20202

May 5, 1980

Dear Colleague:

The APACS has for the past year revised the resolutions as passed on April 23-25 in 1979 and worked on the development strategies for followup by our staff in conjunction with the National Asian/ Pacific American Education Alliance members and other Asian/ Pacific American (APA) organizations desiring to work towards improving education for APA children.

Many of you are probably asking, "Why has it taken so long?" Since the April 1979 Conference in San Francisco, we have been involved in the Education Department legislation, the transition of the Office of Education to the Education Department, the transfer of APACS to the Office of the Undersecretary and then physically moved from the Health and Human Services building to the Reporter's Building with other Education Department units. In other words, several things have been happening, making it difficult to complete this task.

Now that things are somewhat in order, our priority is to complete and publish the 1980 APA Education Agenda. Therefore, APACS is asking you to review the revised resolutions and the relevant strategies to determine if your organization can or can not participate in completing the activities as described. The APA Education Agenda will be a planning vehicle for local, State and national APA organizations in order for us to coordinate, maximize, and gain visibility in bring about positive change.

Please review the strategies and resolutions and send comments or call the APACS office by the end of July.

Sincerely,

Stephen Thom
Director
Asian/Pacific American
Concerns Staff

ENCLOSURES